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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/855,099	05/15/2001	Alfred Boyd Freeman		8740

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EXAMINER

LEWIS, ADAM M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2174

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/855,099

Applicant(s)

FREEMAN, ALFRED BOYD

Examiner

Adam M. Lewis

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 13, 16 and 17 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 13: The list of steps in claim 13 are not continuous, i.e. missing step e). It is assumed the steps are to be listed in continuous alphabetical order, and therefore will be examined as if list were to ascend from step a) through step g)

Claim 16: There are two steps listed as step c). It is assumed the steps are to be listed in continuous alphabetical order, and therefore will be examined as if the list were to ascend from step a) through step f) in the normal fashion.

Claim 17: the phrase "wherein there eight" should be changed to –wherein there are eight–.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-6 and 8-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Freeman ("Freeman", US# 5,649,223).

As per independent claim 1, Freeman teaches the method for inputting text to a computer type apparatus having a data processing means, a text handling system, a memory, a display, and a pointing means comprising the steps of:

a) displaying a plurality of items on said display for word starts (Freeman, col. 9, lines 23-55);

b) assigning a very frequent word, or VFW, to each said items (Freeman, col. 8, lines 21-31);

c) selecting one of said items with said pointing means (Freeman, col. 3, lines 59-67 and col. 4, lines 1-5; col. 5, lines 51-53); and

d) inputting the VFW assigned to the selected one of said items to said text handling system (Freeman, col. 9, lines 11-22).

Independent claims 13 and 16 are similar in scope to claim 1, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Concerning step c), column 3 lines 59-67 state that the system is "responsive either to inputs from keyboards or non-keyboard apparatus." One skilled in the art would consider a pointing means an input that is a non-keyboard apparatus.

As per claim 2, which is dependent on claim 1, Freeman teaches the method according to claim 1 wherein said memory holds a set of inflection suffixes and including the steps of:

e) designating each of inflection suffixes to a direction and a pattern (Freeman, col. 15, lines 24-35);

f) moving said pointing means in a chosen direction and pattern (Freeman, col. 15, lines 48-51); and

g) applying the inflection suffix designated to the chosen direction and pattern to the VFW of step d) (Freeman, col. 8, lines 10-15).

Dependent claim 14 is similar in scope to claim 2, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 3, which is dependent on claim 2, Freeman teaches the method according to claim 2 wherein the number of directions is eight and there are more than one pattern (Freeman, Figs. 6-9 and 11).

Dependent claim 17 is similar in scope to claim 3, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 4, which is dependent on claim 1, Freeman teaches the method according to claim 1 wherein the one of said VFWs have a set of related words and including the steps of:

- e) designating each of said related words to a direction and a pattern (Freeman, col. 20, lines 1-15);

- f) moving said pointing means in a chosen direction and pattern (Freeman, col. 20, lines 33-35); and

- g) substituting the one of said related words designated by the chosen direction and pattern for the VFW in step d) (Freeman, col. 20, lines 33-35).

Dependent claim 15 is similar to claim 4, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 5, which is dependent on claim 1, Freeman teaches the method according to claim 1 wherein the one of said VFWs assigned to the selected item has a set of 2nd words assigned and including the steps of:

e) designating each of said 2nd words to a direction and a pattern (Freeman, col. 20, lines 1-15);

f) moving said pointing means in a chosen direction and pattern (Freeman, col. 20, lines 33-35); and

g) inserting the one of said 2nd words designated by said chosen direction and pattern to accompany the VFW in step g) (Freeman, col. 20, lines 33-35).

As per claim 6, which is dependent on claim 1, Freeman teaches the method according to claim 1 wherein said memory holds a set of punctuation and other word endings and including the steps of:

e) designating each of said punctuation and other word endings to a direction and a pattern (Freeman, col. 21, lines 9-29);

f) moving said pointing means in a chosen direction and pattern (Freeman, col. 21, lines 9-29); and

g) applying the ending designated to said chosen direction and pattern to the VFW of step d) (Freeman, col. 21, lines 9-29).

As per claim 8, which is dependent on claim 1, Freeman teaches the method according to claim 1 wherein said memory holds each digit with a set of members comprising related words, related number values, and related characters and wherein the displayed items of step a) include said digits and wherein said method includes the steps of:

e) picking one of said displayed items representing a digit with said pointing means (Freeman, col. 3, lines 59-67 and col. 4, lines 1-5);

e) designating each of said digit related members to a direction and a pattern (Freeman, col. 20, lines 33-35);

f) moving said pointing means in a chosen direction and pattern (Freeman, col. 20, lines 33-35); and

g) transferring the member designated to the chosen direction and pattern to said text handling system (Freeman, col. 20, lines 33-35).

Concerning claim 8, one skilled in the art would consider a digit an alphanumeric character. Therefore, Freeman teaches representing digits because Freeman teaches other alphanumeric characters.

As per claim 9, which is dependent on claim 1, Freeman teaches the method according to claim 1 wherein said memory holds a plurality of sets of word stems, and including the steps of:

e) also assigning a starting letter string, or SLS, to each said items (Freeman, col. 11, lines 63-68 and col. 12, lines 1-6);

f) picking the VFW or SLS assigned to the selected item with said pointing means (Freeman, col. 15, lines 48-51);

g) accessing a set of said word stems associated with each picked SLS (Freeman, col. 4, lines 49-60);

h) presenting the accessed word stem set on said display (Freeman, col. 4, lines 49-60); and

i) obtaining one of the word stems presented with said point means (Freeman, col. 15, lines 48-51); and

j) substituting the word stem obtained for the VFW in step d) (Freeman, col. 15, lines 48-60).

As per claim 10, which is dependent on claim 9, Freeman discloses a system including the method according to claim 9 wherein said pointing means includes two buttons and wherein step f) is replaced by the step of:

k) operating one of said buttons to pick the assigned VFW or SLS (Freeman, col. 5, lines 51-53).

As per claim 11, which is dependent on claim 9, Freeman teaches the method according to claim 9 wherein said memory holds strings of word stems and a set of letters each assigned to a direction and a pattern and wherein steps f) and g) are replaced by the steps of:

k) moving said pointing means in the direction and pattern to which one of said of letters is assigned (Freeman, col. 21, lines 9-29).

l) extending the SLS with said letter to a longer SLS; and

m) accessing a set of words for said longer SLS (Freeman, col. 18, lines 51-55).

As per claim 12, which is dependent on claim 9, Freeman teaches the method according to claim 9 wherein said memory holds strings of word stems and groups of letters each assigned to a direction and a pattern and wherein steps k), g) and m) are replaced by the steps of:

k) moving said pointing means in the direction and pattern to which one of said of group of letters is assigned (Freeman, col. 21, lines 9-29);

l) extending the SLS with each of the letters of said group to longer SLSs (Freeman, col. 18, lines 51-55); and

m) accessing the word stems with starting letters matching said longer SLSs (Freeman, col. 18, lines 51-55).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freeman in view of Microsoft Word ("Microsoft", Microsoft Word 9.0.4402 SR-1).

As per claim 7, which is dependent on claim 1, Freeman does not teach the method according to claim 1 wherein one of said VFWs is the word "a" and said memory holds a special set of characters and letter strings starting with vowel sounds and including the steps of:

e) designating the location to which the word "a" is inputted;
f) comparing the starting to the next word inputted with said special set; and
g) inserting the letter `n` to append to the inputted word "a" if step f) finds a match.

Microsoft does not teach the specific instance in which the word "a" is replaced with the word "an" where appropriate. However, Microsoft does teach a grammatical AutoCorrect feature in which mistyped grammatical errors are corrected by the

software. Therefore, replacing the word "a" with "an" where appropriate is a subset of the corrections provided by Microsoft.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention because it would provide the user the ability to more efficiently enter grammatically correct text.

6. Claims 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freeman in view of Tannenbaum et al. ("Tannenbaum", US# 5,252,951).

As per claims 18-20, Tannenbaum teaches several text input strokes that allow the user myriad ways to insert the letters and/or words desired (Tannenbaum, Fig. 10; col. 18, lines 64-68 and col. 19, lines 1-16).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of invention to incorporate the text input strokes of Tannebaum into the text input system of Freeman because it would provide the user with a more accurate way to input text with a stylus, mouse, or other non-keyboard type input device.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Levin (US# 4,760,528) teaches a method for entering text using abbreviated word forms.

Goldwasser (US# 4,891,786) teaches a stroke typing system.

Baker et al. (S# 5,210,689) teaches a system and method for automatically selecting among a plurality of input modes.

Baker et al. (US# 5,299,125) teaches a natural language processing system and method for parsing a plurality of input symbol sequences into syntactically or pragmatically correct word messages.

Kutsumi et al. (US# 5,442,547) teaches an apparatus for aiding a user in producing a dictionary storing morphemes with input cursor prepositioned at character location with the highest probability of change.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adam M. Lewis whose telephone number is 703-305-0720. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:00-4:30, Alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on 703-308-0640. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-746-7239.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Kristine Kincaid
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